

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
11/16/11 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Vic Cox, Cheryl Snell, Jack Peveler (County of Ventura), Danni Storz, Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Chris Hughes (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Christine Ryerson (Ryerson Environmental Foundation), Debra Herring, John Ugoretz (Navy), Leslie Purcell, Jean Holmes (SB League of Women Voters), Ann Rosecrance

Staff: Sean Hastings, Kristen Hislop

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. SHIPPING

- A. PARS – final report and recommendations; SAC presentation: US Coast Guard completed the PARS study and recommends establishing shipping lanes south of the Channel Islands (primarily to address safety concerns) and shifting the lanes within the Channel Islands (to reduce threats to marine wildlife). The recommendations may result in a proposed rulemaking, which will involve consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service and the Sanctuary. A final rulemaking would also require IMO approval. It was noted that shipping patterns may change based on the new CARB rule and future implementation of the Emission Control Area regulations, both of which may reduce the incentive for ships to travel further offshore, outside the Islands. The PARS did not recommend speed limits, stating that the Coast Guard does not have authority to impose such limits. The PARS states that speed limits are within NOAA's authority.
- B. Sanctuary ship speed petition: Petitioners are waiting for a response from NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.
- C. Marine Advisories: Sean reported that the speed reduction advisories to mariners have stopped, given the low numbers of target whales.

III. CWG OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

Report status: EDC hired a new intern, Chris Hughes, to help research and draft the section of the report focusing on policy and regulations. We continue to seek input on all sections of the report (including technology and potential effects) from agencies and experts; please let Kristi Birney know if you have any contacts. We are especially seeking experts and agency personnel that would be willing and able to make a presentation to the SAC. There aren't any current proposals in our area, so we have an opportunity to get a head start on the topic, but this fact also makes it challenging to garner agency focus and participation. An important focus for all stakeholders will be on planning and siting, so as to avoid/reduce conflicts and impacts.

IV. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. Status: Greg reported that a court has rejected most of the legal challenges brought by some fishing groups, but a few issues remain. The Fish & Game Commission submitted additional information to the Office of Administrative Law. The regulations should go into effect on January 1, 2012. Some tribal issues also remain.
- B. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project proposal: Kristi reported that EDC and the CINMS are preparing a Bren School group project proposal that will provide research regarding the socio-economic value of non-consumptive use at the CINMS. This project will fill a data gap that will help the CINMS fully evaluate the impacts of marine reserves. The proposal is due in January 2012.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: Kristen reported that the CINMS and the Sanctuary Education Team (SET) are working on implementation of the education component. They are planning a workshop for next year, in coordination with other West Coast Region sanctuary sites, which will focus on developing strategies for educating teachers and the public. Funding applications are pending. CINMS staff and Kristi Birney attended a USC SeaGrant workshop on communicating science (with a specific focus on ocean acidification, climate change and sea level rise). There is a need for scientists to help with public education.
- B. EDC Public Service Announcement: EDC is teaming up with an animator to prepare a 30-second PSA. Our goal is to present the PSA at the national SAC chairs' meeting next spring. The purpose of the PSA is to compel people to care about ocean acidification and direct them to the acidoceans.com website.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Report re oil spill exercise: the US Coast Guard will provide a report regarding the September oil spill exercise in our area.
- B. Updates re gear entanglement, black abalone: NMFS will provide reports regarding a new gear entanglement guide and final black abalone critical habitat designation. The critical habitat designation will go into effect on November 28, 2011.

ADJOURN